

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-24 were rejected as allegedly obvious over U.S. 4,285,728 to Babcock in view of JP B2 07-37334 to Okamoto. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Babcock discloses that lithium-aluminum-silicate glasses, which can be converted into class-ceramics comprising beta-eucryptite and beta-spodumene, can be prepared by casting the material and by subsequent heat treating. With respect to shaping, Babcock only discloses that the casted glass is ground, polished and "figured" for preparing telescopes therefrom (See col. 28, lines 28-43). However, the Examiner acknowledges that Babcock does not teach pressing molten glass with a smooth surfaced ram into a parabolic contour as claimed.

Okamoto discloses molding of a glass to provide a shaped glass body and subsequent heat-treating the resultant shaped glass body to provide a beta-spodumene solid solution or a beta-eucryptite solid solution. A pressing method for shaping the vitrified material is also disclosed. Okamoto does not, however, disclose or suggest pressing molded glass with a smooth surfaced ram into a parabolic contour.

Also, there is no evidence that the skilled person would try to combine the teachings of Okamoto and Babcock could easily derive the process according to claim 22. A pressing method using a ram with a smoothened surface is a very special pressing method and can only be used under certain conditions and only with certain glass formulations.

The Examiner has not shown that the skilled person at the time of the present invention would use a ram with a smoothened surface in combination with the method disclosed by Babcock, even when taking into account the teachings of Okamoto.

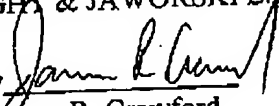
In sum, nothing in Okamoto relates to the using of a ram with a smoothened surface. Thus, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due to enter this amendment or to maintain pendency of this application,
please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By 
James R. Crawford
Reg. No. 39,155

666 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10103
(212) 318-3148